



# NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER PHIL ANGELIDES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ANGELIDES TAKES STATEWIDE DRIVE TO FIGHT EDUCATION BUDGET CUTS TO ELK GROVE**

*AS STATE ENTERS NEW FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT BUDGET, TREASURER JOINED BY  
PARENTS AND EDUCATORS TO SAVE SCHOOL SPENDING AND URGE LAWMAKERS  
TO END BUDGET STALEMATE*

**ELK GROVE, CA** – California State Treasurer Phil Angelides today brought his fight to save school spending to Sacramento County, where he and other state leaders urged students, parents and educators to join the campaign for quick adoption of a “smart, state budget that protects education, which is at the heart and soul of California’s future.”

Angelides spoke at a news conference at James McKee Elementary School, as the State began its second day without a budget and following this week’s unveiling of an Assembly Republican budget plan that calls for deep education cuts. The Treasurer urged the Legislature to reject the nearly \$3 billion in education cuts for the current fiscal year that the latest GOP spending plan proposes. The Treasurer pointed out that those cuts add up to about a \$500 cut for each of the State’s six million students – or more than \$12,000 for every public school classroom in the State. The Assembly Republican plan released on Monday proposes, among other things, delaying for a year the entrance to school of about 110,000 children scheduled to start kindergarten this August and September.

In addition, the Treasurer warned that schools risk losing \$11 billion this fiscal year alone for specified, or “categorical” programs – such as class-size reduction, special education, and child nutrition – if California is ensnared in a prolonged budget stalemate. That \$11 billion represents about 26 percent of what schools would otherwise receive from the State.

“The latest Republican budget plan is wrong for our children, wrong for the future of California and wrong for our long-term economic progress,” Angelides said. “It is time for the Republican leadership to step back from the precipice, come to the bargaining table and try to fashion a budget that is consistent with the priorities of the State for the years ahead. That means investing in education for our future.”

“None of us – Republican, Democrat or Independent – should ever forget that the most important thing we can do to seed the future of success is to educate our children,” Angelides said. “Any combination of education cuts and budget delays will be hurtful to our students and their education, causing further chaos for classroom funding at a time when we can least afford to shortchange our investment in this State’s future.”

The Treasurer visited Elk Grove today as part of the second leg of a statewide drive he launched earlier this year, during which he visited schools from Eureka to San Diego – and many points between – to call on students, parents and educators to join together to campaign to save school spending from proposed state budget cuts. Most recently, he visited Gratts Elementary School in Los Angeles.

Angelides told those gathered at James McKee Elementary that he had both good news and bad news to report. The good news is that since the Treasurer began visiting public schools earlier this year, the Governor and Democratic lawmakers have restored some of the education funding that had been proposed for cuts in January. “We all deserve some credit for that,” he said, “for sending a clear message to the decision makers in Sacramento that people up and down the State truly do care about quality schools, smaller class sizes and up-to-date text books. It shows we can make a difference.”

As for the bad news, the Treasurer noted that the newly released Assembly Republican budget plan calls for even deeper education cuts – cuts that will be too hurtful to the younger generation that will grow up to become this State’s next workforce. “Shouldn’t these children be as best equipped as possible to take on that challenge?” he asked.

Joining the Treasurer at the news conference was Elk Grove Unified School District Superintendent Dave W. Gordon, who said, “Our most pressing need is to have a state budget adopted. The longer the State delays in passing the budget, the greater the impact on schools.” Students, parents and educators in the Elk Grove Unified district “are making tremendous progress on academic achievement,” Gordon added, “and we need the Legislature and the Governor to adopt the budget quickly so that we can continue that progress.”

In addition, Denise Henderson, past president of James McKee Elementary’s PTA, said, “While these are very tough budget times, I urge the Legislature to set aside their differences and pass a budget for the State of California. Delaying the state budget will not improve the financial crisis we are in, but approving the budget quickly will allow us to move forward in providing a good education for our children. I urge the Legislature to do the responsible thing for our children and pass a state budget so we may move forward.”

Angelides acknowledged that “no one likes new or higher taxes.” But the Treasurer pointed to several economists, including Edward Leamer of the UCLA/Anderson Forecast and Nobel recipient Joseph Stiglitz, whose studies have concluded that deep spending cuts in areas like education will harm the economy.

In a letter earlier this year to the Governor and lawmakers, Angelides asked that additional revenue options be considered to fund education at the level needed to foster continued progress for future generations.

Nothing has transpired over the last year to lead Californians “to retreat from our commitment to first-class schools,” the Treasurer wrote in his letter. “Indeed there is ample evidence that our increased investment in education over the past few years already has begun to yield positive results.”

On Wednesday, the Treasurer pointed to a recent, well-respected public opinion poll that showed that the Republican budget plan is out of step with the priorities of Californians. The poll, conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California, reported that 67 percent of Californians are willing to pay higher taxes to maintain current funding for K-12 public education.

The Treasurer called on all Californians to contact their representatives in Sacramento, and ask them a simple question: “Are they willing to stand with the two thirds of Californians who want to protect education, even if it means paying a temporary tax increase to help us ride out this financial storm?”

The Treasurer also reminded everyone that there is much work to do for next year, too. “Once we get this budget behind us,” he said, “it's imperative that we start immediately planning for next year's effort. We must vow that we will never again allow the forces of this State, who would deny our children a quality education, to hold our future hostage. Next year, we will take the lead, we will never let it go, and we will win the fight.”

On Wednesday, after his remarks at James McKee Elementary, and a question-and-answer session with reporters, the Treasurer visited classrooms at the elementary school and spoke briefly with students. In addition to Gordon, the Elk Grove Unified superintendent, and Henderson, the PTA representative, the Treasurer was also joined at the news conference and tour by Jane Liang, the James McKee Elementary summer school principal; Bennee Hopson of the California Teachers Association; Carol Johnson of the California School Employees Association; and Gary Greenwich of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees.